

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /126 W
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R 212331Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2179
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02593

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, CU
SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT: CENTRAL AFRICAN ISSUES:
CUBAN DIPLOMAT'S VIEWS

REF: USUN 751 (NOTAL)

MISOFF (GRAHAM) DISCUSSED NON-ALIGNED AND CENTRAL AFRICAN
ISSUES WITH CUBAN MISOFF (FELIX PITA) JUNE 19.

- HAVANA MEETING

PITA INSISTED THAT CUBA HAD BEEN EXTREMELY FLEXIBLE AND
REASONABLE AS HOST TO THE RECENT NON-ALIGNED MEETING IN
HAVANA. MISOFF COUNTERED THAT CUBAN "MODERATION" ON
REGIONAL ISSUES IN HAVANA HAD BEEN MADE EASY BY FACT THAT
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LIKE-MINDED STATES HAD BEEN READY, WILLING AND PRIMED TO
AMEND THE ORIGINAL CUBAN TEXT TOWARD MORE RADICAL
DIRECTIONS. FURTHERMORE, IT APPEARED TO US THAT CUBA HAD
IN FACT BEEN RATHER TOUGH AND INFLEXIBLE ON THE GLOBAL
AND IDEOLOGICAL ISSUES WHICH HAD LED OFF THE COMMUNIQUE.
PITA AGREED THAT CUBA HAD NOT STOOD IN THE WAY OF LIKE-
MINDED STATES SEEKING TO RADICALIZE REGIONAL ISSUES BUT

MAINTAINED THAT THIS TACTIC HAD BEEN EMPLOYED BY OTHER NAM HOSTS BEFORE CUBA. HE DOWNPLAYED, HOWEVER, ANY IDEOLOGICAL DIVISIVENESS, EITHER AT HAVANA OR IN THE NAM AS A WHOLE-

- 1979 HAVANA CONFERENCE

PITA REFERRED TO A RECENT NEWSPAPER STORY ALLEGEDLY BY DAVID BINDER (MISSION HAS NOT SEEN) WHICH REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS INSTRUCTING ITS POSTS ABROAD TO "SABOTAGE" THE 1979 HAVANA NAM SUMMIT. PITA SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE ALLEGED US ACTION, SAYING THAT "SEVERAL" NAM UN MISSIONS, IN REACTION TO THIS STORY, HAD RUNG HIS OFFICE TO REASSURE CUBA OF THEIR GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT. MISOFF SAID THAT USG WAS NOT OUT TO "SABOTAGE" THE 1979 HAVANA CONFERENCE. RATHER, THE USG WAS CONCERNED THAT CUBA SEEMED COMMITTED TO PULLING THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT IN AN ANTI-WEST DIRECTION. THIS WAS CERTAINLY NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE US NOR, WE BELIEVED, OF THE NAM. IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE TO CUBA THAT WE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THESE CONCERNS WITH OTHERS.

- ZAIRE/ANGOLA

PITA MADE A POINT OF NOTING CUBAN RESTRAINT IN THE RECENT SHABA CRISIS AND IN THE SUBSEQUENT WAR OF WORDS WITH THE US. CUBA HAD BEEN VERY CONSCIOUS, HE SAID, NOT TO DELIBERATELY CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTACK PRESIDENT CARTER BUT TO FOCUS ITS CRITICISMS INSTEAD ON DR. BRZEZINSKI.

CUBA, PITA SAID, HAD ALSO ACTED WITH CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT IN ANGOLA. CUBAN TROOPS HAD BEEN "CLOSE TO CASSINGA" DURING THE RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN RAID BUT EVEN SO CUBA'S "RESPONSE" TO THE RAID HAD BEEN "MILD". PITA REMAINED UNCONVINCED THAT THE US WAS NOT ACTIVELY AIDING UNITA.

- PUERTO RICO

PITA SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD A RUMOR THAT THE US HAD NOW DECIDED TO ALLOW FULL DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MISOFF ADVISED PITA THAT US POLICY ON PUERTO RICO HAD NOT CHANGED AND THAT HE HAD BEEN MIS-INFORMED. PITA MADE IT PLAIN THAT PUERTO RICO WAS STILL A VERY LIVE ISSUE FOR CUBA EVEN THOUGH CUBA IN STILL ANOTHER DISPLAY OF MODERATION, HAD NOT PUSHED IT HARD AT THE RECENT HAVANA MEETING.

COMMENT: PITA SEEMED GENUINELY STUNG BY THE THOUGHT THAT THE USG MIGHT BE ACTIVELY LOBBYING IN CAPITALS AGAINST

CUBAN OBJECTIVES IN THE NAM. WEARING THE SAME IDEOLOGICAL PRISMS AS HIS COLLEAGUE BLANCO (REFTEL) PITA SAW CUBAN OBJECTIVES AS UNALTERABLY "RIGHT" FOR THE WORLD AND ANY ATTEMPTS TO OPPOSE THEM AS UNALTERABLY "WRONG" IN A DEEP HISTORICAL SENSE.

PITA (AND BLANCO) SEEM SINCERE WHEN THEY MINIMIZE IDEOLOGICAL DIVISIVENESS IN THE NAM SINCE NEITHER CAN ACKNOWLEDGE THE LEGITIMACY OF ANY IDEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE SAVE THAT OF CUBA; SOME STATES ARE SIMPLY SLOW TO SEE THE LIGHT. ACTIONS BY THE US, IN PITA'S VIEW, ONLY DELAY THE

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PROCESS FURTHER AND COULD LEAD TO DIVISIVENESS WHICH, ABSENT INTERFERENCE BY THE CAPITALIST "HEAVIES", COULD BE AVOIDED.

PITA'S RECURRING AND ENTHUSIASTIC REFERENCES TO RECENT EXAMPLES OF CUBAN "MODERATION" SEEMED CONGRUENT WITH CUBAN TACTICS AT THE HAVANA NAM MEETING -- TO ATTEMPT TO MASK AN IDEOLOGICALLY DOGMATIC WORLD VIEW WITH LOW-COST TACTICAL CONCESSIONS DESIGNED TO IMPLY A DEGREE OF IDEOLOGICAL FLEXIBILITY THAT DOES NOT EXIST. YOUNG

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